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From: Jewell, Wayne

To: jhayes@house.mi.gov

Cc: Linda Thomas

Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2005 1:11 PM

Subject: HB 4311, 4312 and 4262

I would like to register my **support** for proposed **House Bills 4311, HB 4312 and HB 4262**. These three pieces of legislation correct a wrong that was made many years ago. As proposed this legislation allows for all design professionals to completely practice their professions. This does not limit or restrict an architect or engineer in practicing their profession, but it does open the door to allow an interior designer that has proven their ability to completely practice their profession. In that I mean, person that perform interior design services are recognized to be able to submit plans for construction permits. The previous language of Section 601, subsection 10 was very poorly written and left open to a wide range of interpretations, most of which were restraint of practice.

What is contained in HB 4311 more clearly defines that the alteration or planning of new interior spaces can be done and submitted for permit by someone clearly certified or qualified as an "Interior Designer". As a code official for 25+ years I have seen construction documents prepared by Architects, Engineers and "Interior Designers." Many of these documents produced by any and all for the three groups have been acceptable to issue a permit and many have not. Code compliance is part of the process of construction and left to best be determined by the Code Officials of this state through review of construction documents prior to issuing a permit, then after through regular inspection of work as it progresses in a project. The elements of the building code encompassed in the level of work that would be permitted by this recognition is reasonable and not inherently creating unsafe conditions for the public that would live, work or recreate in these spaces.

If the concept of someone being licensed or registered provided such a degree of safety to the public then why are we as Code Officials still reviewing their documents for compliance and most importantly asking for corrections? Having a registration or license as an architect or engineer hasn't demonstrated competency or a lack thereof. It just allows them to "practice" their profession. Why do I still call an Architect or Engineer to discuss a project and find that they don't even have a current code book? I admit this is not the norm, but it does still happen. Their ability to one time pass an exam doesn't mean they will display or discharge their responsibilities as a design professional competently. I'm sure that some of the same will be able to be said for Interior Design persons in the years to come. Again, the adequacy of construction documents to conform to building code is left to the determination of the Code Official, not just that it bears a required seal and signature. The marketplace should and will balance the number of persons practicing these services; most often an incompetent design professional doesn't continue to practice very long. Weak ones use the approval system as a crutch and we are frustrated with that. Passing this package of legislation will at least level the field for those that are competent to practice and fully work within the marketplace of this state's construction economy.

Thank you, for your consideration of my opinion of support for HB 4311, 4312 and 4262.

Sincerely

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Building Official

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